



Greg Gianforte  
Congress of the United States

Montana  
September 12, 2018

The Honorable Michael Conaway  
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture  
1305 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building

Dear Chairmen Conaway and Roberts and Ranking Members Peterson and Stabenow:

I appreciate your challenging work and receptiveness to input as you work to draft a new Farm Bill. To that end, I urge you to support several provisions of importance to Montana.

Montana farmers and ranchers support the strengthened Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage (PLC and ARC) programs. I support streamlining the election to participate process and using smaller geographic areas to calculating revenues. I also appreciate the continuance of a strong Crop Insurance title.

The No-Cost Domestic Sugar program ensures Montana sugar beet growers and processors have a stable market and prevents unfair dumping practices by foreign producers. I was proud to join the majority of the House to defeat an amendment to end the sugar program and I would urge you to continue this bedrock policy.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) plays a key role in ensuring America has the safest, lowest cost food supply in the world. I urge you to maintain strong support for the ARS. I appreciate the proposed increase for organic agriculture research and continued support for the Sheep Experiment Station.

The Farm Credit System is an incredibly important tool and must be maintained. I appreciate the improvements proposed to the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers programs as well as the update to loan limits. I also appreciate the proposed efforts to involve more military veterans in agriculture.

I support maintaining strong Conservation and Forestry titles. These bills allow for enhanced wildlife habitat and encourage proper management of our forests. I appreciate the efforts to help the U.S. Forest Service quickly remove dead trees after wildfires and improve reforestation efforts. I urge that conferees support the amendment I introduced that was adopted by the House to expand Good Neighbor Authority to local and tribal governments as well as the amendment to expand landscape salvage and reforestation projects to deal with the large acreage that has burned.

In the spirit of bicameral cooperation, I would also urge support for the Senate-passed Farm Bill's inclusion of the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) Act. I introduced this legislation in the House and Senator Durbin is the lead sponsor in the Senate. The legislation would reauthorize a grant program for rural emergency medical services training and assistance. It would build on the strong Rural Development title that is so important to Montanans for water systems, rural telecom and broadband, and other economic development. Within the Rural Development title, I also support the reauthorization of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network to help address Farmer suicides.

Thank you again for all of your hard work to complete this important legislation. I appreciate your consideration and I look forward to building on the progress of past Farm Bills and passing this important legislation.

Sincerely,



GREG GIANFORTE  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS